CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently amended) A method for automatically processing ~~objects~~ paper, plastic and electronic documents of many different classes and types that are randomly presented to first identify the class of each ~~object~~ document, then identify the type of ~~object~~ document within an identified class of ~~objects~~ documents, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) capturing a complete ~~representation~~ image of an entire ~~object~~ document that is presented to be identified;

(b) determining a first characteristic for each ~~object~~ document presented to be identified using its complete ~~representation~~ image captured in step (a), the first characteristic being used to identify one class of ~~object~~ document from another class of ~~object~~ document;

(c) retrieving a set of second characteristics for each ~~object~~ document presented to be identified whose complete ~~representation~~ image is captured in step (a) and whose class of ~~object~~ document is identified in step (b), the second set of characteristics being used to identify the type of ~~object~~ document from amongst the class of ~~objects~~ documents identified [[~~is~~]] in step (b);

(d) analyzing individual characteristics from the second set of characteristics retrieved in step (c) with characteristics actually in the complete ~~object representation~~ document image captured in step (a) to identify the type of ~~object~~ document from amongst the class of ~~objects~~ documents identified [[~~is~~]] in step (b).

2. (Currently amended) The method in accordance with claim 33 further comprising the step of: (g) providing an indication that ~~an object~~ a document is genuine, counterfeit or has been altered based upon the results of analysis performed in step (f).

3. (Currently amended) The method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the determination of a first characteristic performed in step (b) is to determine the size of an ~~object~~ document being processed, all ~~objects~~ documents that may be identified and verified are divided into size ranges and each class of ~~objects~~ documents includes all ~~objects~~ documents having the same size.

4. (Currently amended) The method in accordance with claim 3 wherein the second set of characteristics retrieved in step (c) include color patterns at specific locations on ~~objects~~ documents.

5. (Currently amended) The method for automatically processing ~~objects~~ documents in accordance with claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

[[(h)]] (e) ordering all ~~object~~ document types that are identified in step (d) from the most commonly identified type of ~~objects~~ documents to the least commonly identified type of ~~objects~~ documents; and

[[(i)]] (f) selecting the retrieved characteristics from step (c) for use in step (d) starting with characteristics for the most commonly identified ~~object~~ document type and progressing to the least commonly identified ~~object~~ document type.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) A method for automatically processing ~~objects~~ paper, plastic and electronic documents of many different classes and types that are randomly presented to first identify the class of each ~~object~~ document, then identify the type of ~~object~~ document within an identified class of ~~objects~~ documents, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) determining a first characteristic for each ~~object~~ document presented to be identified; the first characteristic being used to identify one class of ~~object~~ document from another class of ~~object~~ document;

(b) identifying one class of ~~objects~~ documents from all classes of ~~objects~~ documents for each ~~object~~ document presented to be identified using the first characteristic determined in step (a);

(c) retrieving a set of second characteristics for each ~~object~~ document presented to be identified and whose class of ~~object~~ document is identified in step (b); and

(d) analyzing characteristics found in each ~~object~~ document presented to be identified, with each of the retrieved characteristics to identify the ~~first~~ document;

12. (Currently amended) The method for automatically processing ~~objects~~ documents in accordance with claim 11 further comprising the steps of:

(e) ordering all types of ~~object~~ documents that are identified in step (d) from the most commonly identified type of ~~object~~ document to the least commonly identified type of ~~object~~ document; and

(f) selecting the retrieved characteristics from step (b) for use in step (c) starting with characteristics for the most commonly identified type of ~~object~~ document and progressing to the least commonly identified type of ~~object~~ document.

13. (Currently amended) The method in accordance with claim 35 further comprising the step of (g) providing an indication that an ~~object~~ document identified in step (d) and verified in step (f) is genuine, counterfeit or has been altered based upon the results of the analysis performed in step (e).

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium containing executable instructions for automatically processing ~~objects~~ paper, plastic and electronic documents of many different classes and types that are randomly presented to first identify the class of each ~~object~~ document, then identify the type of ~~object~~ document within an identified class of ~~objects~~ documents, the executable program instructions comprising program instructions for:

(a) capturing ~~a complete representation~~ an image of an entire ~~object~~ document that is presented to be identified;

(b) determining a first characteristic for each ~~object~~ document presented to be identified using its ~~complete representation~~ image captured in step (a), the first characteristic being used to identify one class of ~~object~~ document from another class of ~~object~~ document;

(c) retrieving a set of second characteristics for each ~~object~~ document presented to be being identified whose ~~complete representation~~ image is captured in step (a) and whose class of ~~object~~ document is identified in step (b), the second set of characteristics being used to identify the type of ~~object~~ document from amongst the class of ~~objects~~ documents identified [[~~is~~]] in step (b); and

(d) analyzing individual characteristics from the second set of characteristics retrieved in step (c) with characteristics actually in the ~~complete object representation~~ document image captured in step (a) to identify the type of ~~object~~ document from amongst the class of ~~objects~~ documents identified [[~~is~~]] in step (b).

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently Amended) The method for automatically processing ~~objects~~ documents according to claim 1 where identified ~~objects~~ documents are to be verified, and further comprising the steps of:

(e) retrieving a set of reference information unique to each type of ~~object~~ document that is identified in step (d); and

(f) analyzing each ~~object~~ document whose ~~complete representation~~ image is captured in step (a) using the unique set of reference information retrieved in step (e) to verify if the type of ~~object~~ document identified in step (d) is genuine, counterfeit, or has been altered.

34. (Currently Amended) The method for automatically processing ~~objects~~ documents according to claim 5 where identified ~~objects~~ documents are to be verified, and further comprising the steps of:

(g) retrieving a set of reference information unique to each type of ~~object~~ document that is identified in step (d); and

(h) analyzing each type of ~~object~~ document identified in step (d) using the unique set of reference information retrieved in step (g) to verify if it is genuine, counterfeit, or has been altered.

35. (Currently Amended) The method for automatically processing ~~objects~~ documents according to claim 11 where identified ~~objects~~ documents are to be verified, and further comprising the steps of:

(e) retrieving a set of reference information unique to each type of ~~object~~ document that is identified in step (d); and

(f) analyzing each ~~object~~ document identified in step (a) using the unique set of reference information retrieved in step (e) to verify if it is genuine, counterfeit, or has been altered.

36. (Currently Amended) The method for automatically processing ~~objects~~ documents according to claim 12 where identified ~~objects~~ documents are to be verified, and further comprising the steps of:

(g) retrieving a set of reference information unique to each type of ~~object~~ document that is identified in step (d); and

(h) analyzing each ~~object~~ document identified in step (a) using the unique set of reference information retrieved in step (e) to verify if it is genuine, counterfeit, or has been altered.

37. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium executable instructions of claim 31 further comprising instructions for:

(e) retrieving a set of reference information unique to each type of ~~object~~ document that is identified in step (d); and

(f) analyzing each ~~object~~ document whose ~~complete representation~~ image is captured in step (a) using the unique set of reference information retrieved in step (e) to verify if the type of ~~object~~ document identified in step (d) is genuine, counterfeit, or has been altered.